

THE SHIP'S WRITER.

ONCE AN INDIVIDUAL OF IMPORTANCE.

The Autocratic Position of an Official Whose Salary Has Recently Been Reduced.

The new pay-table, regulating the emoluments of the enlisted men in the United States navy, says the New York Times, shows some very interesting things. Among others it illustrates how the mighty have fallen. Time was when that person known as "ship's writer" was a man of considerable importance on shipboard and one whose worth received recognition in a high rate of pay. To the crew the first lieutenant is regarded as the power behind the throne, but in many cases his writer was a power that was greater than the throne itself.

The first lieutenant of a man-of-war is a man who has nothing to do in life except to attend to everything. When he secures the services of an efficient writer he generally delegates to that individual everything concerning the internal economy of the ship which he does not care to be bothered with himself. The men have to be stationed at the battery, crews for the different boats selected, a fire bill arranged and every man of the crew informed as to what is his special duty at every evolution.

The bluejacket, when he is transferred from one ship to another, does not leave his character behind. Everything that he has done or left undone is inscribed upon his papers, and these records are placed with the Writer.

Armed with this knowledge of the character of each member of the crew, to that individual was generally relegated the authority to shift men from one part of the ship to another and to station them as to his judgment was best. It was frequently his function to decide upon their capabilities as petty officers, and as a rule the matter of "liberty," the most important of all in the estimation of the bluejacket, came under his control.

The monthly requisitions for money are made out by him, and it was a part of his duty to see that none of the men obtained more than their conduct entitled them to. The pay of all those who serve in the navy is, of course, regulated by a higher authority, but the commanding officer of a ship always lays down certain rules which must be observed by the men if they want to draw from the paymaster their full monthly allowance.

Nearly every man-of-war has some reminiscence to relate of the Writers with whom he has served. One of these tells of how an ancient bluejacket once presented himself, cap in hand, at the Writer's office. That individual, it appears, was busy at the time, and after an ineffectual attempt to gain a hearing the man went forward. He made another effort and again failed. A third time he tried it, only to be sharply told by the Writer to go forward, as he did not have time to talk to him.

He only went as far forward as the mainmast, the place where all grievances on the part of the crew are carried. The officer of the watch, who was silently pacing the quarterdeck, soon observed the quiet figure standing at attention near the mast, and on approaching him, asked what was the trouble.

"I would like to speak to the first lieutenant," said the man, carrying his hand to his cap.

"What do you want to speak to the first lieutenant about?" inquired the officer, somewhat nettled that the nature of the complaint had not been disclosed to him.

"Well, sir, it is an important matter, and I would like to see the executive personally about it."

The officer hesitated a moment, and then, remembering that the many regulations provide that no audience with the executive officer must be denied, stalked off, knocked on the door of the executive, and told him there was a man at the mast who wished to see him. The executive walked forward, and, after returning the salute of the man, was astonished to learn that he simply wanted his permission to speak to the captain.

"What in the name of creation do you want to see the captain about?" asked the dumfounded officer as he hastily recalled the punishments he had caused to be inflicted without his superior's authority.

"Oh, it's merely a private matter, sir," was the reassuring response, "but it is a very important one to me, and I would like to speak to the captain about it."

"But can't I settle it?" asked the executive, after satisfying himself that he had not exceeded his authority and wishing to save his commander annoyance. "Tell me what's the trouble and I will lay the case before him."

"No, sir," persisted the man; "I want to see the captain personally."

After that there was nothing more for the executive to do but to send the orderly to the captain with the message that there was a man at the mast who wanted to speak to him. It was an unusual request, and that officer did not know what to make of it. However, he came out of the cabin and walked to the mast, accompanied by the executive officer of the deck.

"What is it you want, my man?" he inquired, as the seaman carried his hand to his cap.

"If you please, sir," replied the latter, "I would like your permission to speak to the admiral."

"What the deuce—what do you want to see the admiral about?" gasped the astonished commander.

"Well, sir, it is an important matter, and he is the only man who can decide it, and I ask your permission to speak to him."

The trio of officers paced the quarterdeck in silence for a few minutes.

What the man wanted none of them could imagine. The captain said he had never heard of such a request being made before, and the officer of the deck, fresh from the Naval Academy, admitted that he never had either. After hearing how the man had gone through the regular and prescribed channels to gain an audience with the admiral the captain concluded that it was best to notify the admiral that there was a man at the mast who had asked to speak to him.

Admirals are not easily accessible, and the request was such a singular one to come from such a source that the admiral could hardly credit it when the orderly delivered the message. The captain was sent for, but he assured his superior that the man was not crazy, and that he made a formal request to speak to him. No, he could not say what he wanted to see him about. The man seemed to think that it was a matter of such importance that only the admiral should hear it.

The gray bearded officer arose from his chair, donned his uniform—for it would not do for him to appear upon the deck of his flagship except in the prescribed uniform of the day—and then, after drawing on his gloves, he sent word to the captain that he was ready to see the man. The captain came on deck, and, accompanied by the first lieutenant and officer of the deck, the two proceeded to the mast, where the figure of the seaman was outlined against a group of his wondering companions, who had assembled in the gangway, curious to know what it all meant.

"Well, sir, what's the trouble with you?" asked the admiral, as the man touched his cap and stood at attention.

"If you please, sir," replied the seaman, "I would like your permission to speak to the ship's writer."

The result of the interview the legend does not tell. But it is melancholy to note in the new navy pay-table that the services of the individual with whom the story deals are now valued only at \$35 a month.

General Advertisements.

SELLING OUT

MRS. THOS. LACK is Selling Out her large stock of first-class

SPORTING AND FANCY GOODS, Sewing Machines, etc.

Ten per cent. off on all purchases of Five Dollars or over; five per cent. off for all under.

STORE TO BE LET JUNE 1ST.

Hard Times Mean Close Prices To House Keepers.

If you are in need of any New or Second-hand FURNITURE, RUGS, STOVES, SEWING MACHINES, Etc., call at the

I X L

Furniture & Commission House, Corner Nuuanu and King streets.

E. O. HALL & SON. LIMITED.

Have just received a fresh lot of PURE SPERM OIL. This was caught by ship "Jas. Arnold," and is the finest in color and quality we have ever put in stock.

ROACH TRAPS are needed in every pantry and kitchen in these islands. The kind we sell are always set and we know they catch roaches of any size, as we have used them. When you catch a lot set the trap in hot water as the chickens like their food cooked.

AMERICAN FLAGS—A new lot just at hand ex "Australia," 6 to 15 feet long, with all the stars the law allows and one sprouting for Hawaii.

Locomotive and Steam Plow Oilers: a new lot received, two sizes.

For Hardware of every description, Paints, Oils, Leather, PLOWS, Salt, Kerosene, Gasoline, ROPE and

SHIP CHANDLERY

GO TO

E. O. HALL & SON.

COR. FORT & KING STS.

General Advertisements.



Something Pretty in Shoes

Always invites inspection, and judging from the amount of inspection we are arousing, one would suppose we were showing something unusually pretty. The supposition is entirely correct, for that's precisely what we're doing. Our stock of footwear is not only exceedingly pretty, but it's also pretty extensive, and what's more interesting still, it's more than pretty cheap. It's the buyer's season now. Winter is slipping right along as though on ice, and we don't want to be caught in the Spring with any remnants of winter goods. The stock is well up now in all styles and sizes, and you can get a first choice as well as a low price. Don't wait until the stock's faded away to the last end of nothing before buying, but buy now.

THE MANUFACTURERS' SHOE CO.

Wholesale and Retail Boots and Shoes. 102 FORT STREET.

Space reserved for

BENSON, SMITH & CO.

Wholesale and Retail

Druggists

Domestic Produce.

M. W. McCHESNEY & SONS,

Wholesale Grocers,

HONOLULU, H. I.

A FULL LINE

— OF —

GROCERIES

Always on Hand.

FRESH GOODS

Per Every Steamer and Sail.

SPECIALTIES!

Cheese, Lard, Hams, Butter, Codfish, Milk, Onions, Crackers, Potatoes, Salmon, Macaroni, Corn Meal, Pickled Skipped, Alvicore, Herrings, Flour, Grain and Beans.

Saddle Leather, Harness Leather

AND ALL KINDS OF

Leather and Nails for Shoemakers.

M. W. McCHESNEY & SONS,

AGENTS FOR

Honolulu Tannery.

HIGHEST PRICE

PAID FOR

Hides and Goat Skins!

HIDE SALT

AT LOW PRICE.

M. W. McCHESNEY & SONS,

AGENTS

Honolulu Soap Works Co

PURE

Laundry Soap!

42, 56 and 63 bars to case—

One Hundred Pounds.

HIGHEST

PRICE

PAID

FOR

TALLOW!

General Advertisements.

FOR THE VOLCANO

Nature's Grandest Wonder.

The Popular and Scenic Route

— IS BY THE —

Wilder's Steamship Company's

At STEAMER KINAU,

Fitted with Electric Light, Electric Bells, Courteous and Attentive Service.

VIA HILO:

The Kinau Leaves Honolulu Every Ten Days,

TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS.

Arriving at Hilo Thursday and Sunday Mornings.

FROM HILO TO THE VOLCANO, 30 Miles,

Passengers are Conveyed in Carriages,

TWENTY-TWO MILES,

Over a Splendid Macadamized Road,

Running most of the way through a Dense Tropical

Forest—a ride alone worth the trip. The

balance of the road on horseback.

ABSENT FROM HONOLULU 7 DAYS!

— TICKETS —

Including All Expenses,

For the Round Trip, :: Fifty Dollars.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,

Call at the Office, Corner Fort and Queen streets

Thirty-Third Annual Statement

EQUITABLE

Life - Assurance - Society

OF THE UNITED STATES,

For the Year Ending December 31, 1892.

ASSETS.	
Bonds and Mortgages.....	\$ 21,983,944 02
Real Estate, including the Equitable Buildings and purchases under foreclosure of mortgages.....	23,912,412 49
United States Stocks, State Stocks, City Stocks and other investments.....	75,084,749 48
Loans secured by Bonds and Stocks (Market value, \$7,078,796).....	5,913,000 00
Real Estate outside the State of New York, including purchases under foreclosure.....	14,122,736 70
Cash in Bank and in transit (since received and invested).....	5,554,006 66
Interest and Rents due and accrued, Deferred Premiums and other Securities.....	6,488,702 66
Total Assets, December 31, 1892.....	\$153,060,052 01

We hereby certify, that after a personal examination of the securities and accounts described in the foregoing statement, we find the same to be true and correct as stated.

THOS. D. JORDAN, Comptroller. FRANCIS W. JACKSON, Auditor.

LIABILITIES.	
Reserve on all existing Policies (4% Standard), and all other liabilities.....	\$121,870,236 52
Total Undivided Surplus (4% Standard), including Special Reserve of \$2,500,000 towards establishment of a 3 3/4 % valuation.....	31,189,815 49
	\$153,060,052 01

We certify the correctness of the above calculation of the reserve and surplus. From this surplus the usual dividends will be made.

GEO. W. PHILLIPS, J. G. VAN CISE, Actuaries.

INCOME.	
Premiums.....	\$ 34,046,568 39
Interest, Rents, etc.....	6,289,609 10
	\$40,336,177 49

DISBURSEMENTS.	
Claims by Death and Matured Endowments.....	\$ 10,859,373 04
Dividends, Surrender Values, Annuities and Discounted Endowments.....	5,075,074 94
Total Paid Policy-Holders.....	\$ 15,934,447 98
Commissions, Advertising, Postage and Exchange.....	4,083,478 31
General Expenses, State, County and City Taxes.....	3,544,021 01
	\$ 24,161,947 34

New Assurance written in 1892.....	\$200,490,316 00
Total Outstanding Assurance.....	\$50,962,245 00

We, the undersigned, have, in person, carefully examined the accounts, and counted and examined in detail the assets of the Society, and certify that the foregoing statement thereof is correct.

E. BOUDINOT COLT,
T. S. YOUNG, H. S. TERRELL,
G. W. CARLETON, W. B. KENDALL,

Special Committee of the Board of Directors, appointed to examine the accounts and assets at the close of the year 1892.

DIRECTORS.

HENRY B. HYDE, President.
JAMES W. ALEXANDER, Vice-President.

Louis Fitzgerald, Henry A. Hurlbut, Henry G. Marquand, Wm. A. Wheelock, M. Hartley, H. M. Alexander, Chauncey M. Depew, Charles G. Landon, Cornelius N. Bliss, August Belmont, E. Boudinot Colt, John Sloan, S. Borrowes, H. J. Fairchild, Eugene Kelly, John A. Stewart, Geo. C. Magoun, Wm. M. Bliss, Wm. B. Kendall, G. W. Carleton, E. W. Lambert, H. S. Terrell, Thomas S. Young, John J. McCook, Daniel D. Lord, Wm. Alexander, Horace Porter, Edward W. Scott, C. B. Alexander, Geo. De F. L. Day, Alason Trask, John D. Jones, Levi P. Morton, Charles S. Smith, Joseph T. Low, A. Van Bergen, T. De Witt Cuyler, Oliver Ames, Eustace C. Fitz, S. H. Phillips, Henry R. Wolcott, J. F. DeNavarro, James H. Dunham, Daniel R. Noyes, M. E. Ingalls, T. D. Jordan, S. D. Ripley,

BRUCE & A. J. CARTWRIGHT,

Managers Equitable Life Assurance Society for the Hawaiian Islands.

THE HAWAIIAN STAR

Fifty Cents Per Month,

DELIVERED BY CARRIERS.